



# House Select Committee on Homeland Security **Democrats**

**JIM TURNER, Ranking Member**

*www.house.gov/hsc/democrats/.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 23, 2004**

**Contact: Moira Whelan**

**(202) 226-8827**

## **TURNER: No Anthrax Vaccine in the National Stockpile?**

Congressman Jim Turner, Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, sent a letter on Monday to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson demanding an explanation on the slow progress in providing anthrax vaccine to the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).

“There is virtually no anthrax vaccine currently stored with the SNS despite the clear danger anthrax presents to the public and despite the existence of an agreement to acquire five million doses of the Anthrax Vaccine Absorbed from the Department of Defense,” the letter stated.

The letter requests that the Secretary explain how much vaccine is available today, and whether his Department plans to act on existing agreements with other Federal agencies to acquire further supplies of the vaccine for the stockpile.

**“Despite the lessons of the anthrax attacks three years ago, this Administration still has not done all it can to protect this country from attack.”** said Turner. **“Bills and agreements have been signed but little real progress has been made. Our terrorist enemies will not wait, and neither can we.”**

TURNER LETTER TO THOMPSON ATTACHED

###